

years, being Rockdale County's first African American Congregation; and

Whereas, Bald Rock has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with Rockdale County their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Bald Rock Baptist Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 150th Anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 13, 2011 as Bald Rock Baptist Church Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of November, 2011.

#### HONORING JOHN WILKINSON

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member John Wilkinson, who retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant in 1974.

John A. Wilkinson was born in Taft, California in November 1935. During his high school years, John worked during the summer months and after school in the oil fields handling drill toll stabilizers and as a truck driver. In 1953, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served on seven aircraft carriers, twelve different shore installations, and duty with all branches of service, as well as Civil Service Personnel. He traveled to twenty foreign countries and saw duty with seven military forces. Throughout his duration of service, John succeeded in many roles. In 1957, he was selected for aviation schooling and completed Aircraft Fundamentals and Jet Engine Mechanics courses and was station at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station where he served as a crew chief performing scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance on all aircraft systems. In 1965, John assumed a two year post as a Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was deployed with his unit to Vietnam in 1970 where he served with H&MS-11, which supported Marine aircraft missions fighting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Master Sergeant Wilkinson received numerous decorations and awards for his service, including the National Defense Medal, seven awards of the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal with star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Upon his retirement from the military, John earned an Associate of Arts Degree from West Hills College and a Bachelor of Art Degree in Social Science and a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno. For thirteen years, John continued his legacy of public service as a civics, economics, and history teacher at Chowchilla Union High School. John and his late wife, Veronica, raised three children. He is now a grandfather

of nine and a great-grandfather of ten. He makes his home in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. John A. Wilkinson for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTES FREEDOM SISTER'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, ahead of tomorrow's announcement, today I rise to recognize the empowering Freedom Sister's Exhibition being showcased in The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in my Congressional District. The Exhibition will be officially on display starting February 4 thru April 22, 2012.

Often when the civil rights movement is discussed, male figureheads whose visibility in boycotts, legal proceedings, and mass demonstrations dominated media coverage in the 1950's and '60s are the first memories we recollect. Sometimes missing and often forgotten from these memoirs are a group of extraordinary women who, while less prominent in the media, shaped much of the core and spirit of civil rights movement.

The Freedom Sister's Exhibition shines a light on the many women that at times history seems to overlook. As the Member of Congress whose district encompasses the historical community of Harlem and in response to an overwhelming sentiment from both my local Education and Arts & Culture constituencies, it was enormously important to me that the Smithsonian bring the traveling exhibition to my beloved community. Nine out of the twenty women being paid tribute to, have walked the streets of the great village of Harlem. Constance Baker Motley, Harriet Tubman, Ella Baker, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Dr. Betty Shabazz, Sonia Sanchez, Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Chisholm, and Ida B. Wells all dared to dream the impossible: equality for all.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the success of such notable women as Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Barbara Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Kathleen Cleaver, Mary Church Terrell, Septima Poinsette Clark, Dorothy Height, and C. Delores Tucker. I cannot stress the importance of such a marvelous showcase of these important women. The Civil rights movement was spearheaded by many exceptional men such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, but these women among many others also fought for equality with a commitment to strengthen our Nation and making a difference for all Americans.

Let me thank Jacob Morris, Executive Director of the Harlem Historical Society for bringing this great exhibition to my attention through my District Representative, Socrates Solano. According to the information imparted to my office by the Harlem Historical Society, it was my understanding that New York was not initially considered as a venue for this wonderful traveling exhibit's National tour. Let me also thank Zead Ramadan, Chair of the

Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center for agreeing to host this truly historic exhibition.

Mr. Speaker, like Harlem, there are those in our country that ardently desire that its sons and daughters as well as our teachers and educators are given the opportunity to appreciate and learn more about these great women of courage who have had such profound historical significance. I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues, with the gratitude of our fellow citizens, join me in commending the Smithsonian Institute for paying tribute to our beloved Freedom Sisters through their traveling exhibition.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANE AND WILLIAM MCQUAIN AND THE WORK OF THE DWELLING PLACE

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember two of my constituents whose lives were recently tragically cut short. Ms. Jane McQuain, 51, and her son William, 11, were found murdered on October 18, 2011, triggering shock and pain throughout my congressional district.

Since 2006, Ms. McQuain and William had been receiving assistance from an outstanding organization, The Dwelling Place, whose mission is to provide housing opportunities and support services for homeless families in Montgomery County. The McQuains were one of many families helped by this program.

Ms. McQuain was an extraordinary example of the success that can be achieved through hard work and dedication. In 2006, she came to The Dwelling Place as a homeless single mother, seeking a better life for herself and her son. Two years later, she graduated from the program with permanent housing and a steady job. Ms. McQuain immediately sought to give back to the community and devoted her time to helping families in crisis who were facing similar situations. She often returned to The Dwelling Place to share her experiences and to advise families on how to succeed during and after the program. Her son, William, had a bright future. His friends and family describe him as a vibrant and imaginative boy who loved sports, animals, and video games. Both Ms. McQuain and William were extraordinary individuals, who had successfully overcome great adversity.

The Dwelling Place has been helping the homeless since 1988, when a group of activists, appalled at the rising levels of homelessness in Montgomery County, Maryland, came together to find a solution to this growing problem. The organization incorporates various aspects of affordability, length of stay, and life skills, striving to help homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. Families are assisted to develop the necessary skills they need for a brighter and more prosperous future. The Dwelling Place is not merely a place for families to live; it is a place for families to thrive. It provides families with critical training in parenting, communication literacy, and networking techniques. It also counsels individual families to work towards a strong, united, and independent family unit.

Thanks to The Dwelling Place, Ms. McQuain was able to provide her son with a happy and stable life. Although their lives were brutally cut short, their resilience and ability to overcome hardship will never be forgotten, and they will continue to inspire the many families that face similar challenges.

My congressional district is fortunate to have The Dwelling Place providing support to our community, so that families in crisis can establish new lives without fear and with the potential and support for a bright future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Jane and William McQuain and in saluting the mission of The Dwelling Place and its dedication to assisting the homeless.

RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY  
ADOLESCENT AND EDUCATION  
CENTER OF HOLYOKE, MASSA-  
CHUSETTS

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions that the Community Adolescent and Education, Care, Center, Inc. of Holyoke, Massachusetts makes to the community by improving the lives of teen mothers and their children.

Among the Care Center's core beliefs is that people living in poverty should be exposed to the same intellectual stimulus as those who are financially well off and that they will thrive if they receive it. The Center, therefore, works extremely hard to provide young mothers with high level programming in education, the arts and humanities, and athletics. These programs have been incredibly effective with up to 85 percent of graduates going on to college and many launching careers in social services, government and medicine.

On November 2, 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama presented the Care Center with the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for its innovative humanities courses. I have been a proud supporter of the Center and its vital work, and I cannot think of a more deserving institution in my district.

Over 500 organizations from across the country were nominated for the award which, administered by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, is considered to be the highest honor for such programs in the nation. The Care Center is one of 12 after-school and out-of-school programs to receive the award and it was, in particular, recognized for its exceptional humanities programming. This included the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a free college course focusing on moral philosophy, art history, literature, writing, and American history; Introduction to Humanities, a college course offered in partnership with Greenfield Community College; and Nautilus II, an annual anthology of poetry and art by Center teen mothers.

The Care Center is dedicated to helping young parents with low incomes obtain access to an excellent education. Center Executive Director Anne Teschner and her dedicated staff, through their revolutionary programming, have opened doors leading to successful futures for hundreds of teens and their children.

I commend the Care Center on these efforts and am confident that this national recognition can be a catalyst that allows it to help hundreds more in years to come.

ALAN GROSS

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, for the last two years, Alan Gross, a 62-year old international development specialist and social worker, has been incarcerated in a Cuban prison. Today marks the two-year anniversary of his imprisonment. Alan traveled to Cuba on behalf of USAID to help the country's Jewish community expand its access to the Internet and establish an Intranet. This was a humanitarian mission, a mission to help a small and peaceful community improve its access to and use of the Internet. Alan's presence and actions posed no threat to the Cuban government.

And yet, Alan has been held in a maximum-security military hospital facility in Cuba since December 2009. He has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. Alan's appeal to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5, 2011, formally ending his legal options for release.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleagues in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Alan Gross. Alan Gross is not a criminal, he is a humanitarian aid worker. Alan Gross is a man whose life work has positively impacted people across the world, including in the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and Haiti. Alan Gross is a husband, a father and a son who should be released and reunited with his family immediately.

HONORING TONY ROYAL

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, reaching the age of 50 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mr. Tony Royal was born in Savannah, Georgia on November 20, 1961 and is celebrating that milestone today; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has accomplished much in his years, but the two things he is most proud of is being the husband of Leslie and father of Antasha and Anthony; and

Whereas, he is a stellar businessman, a model citizen and a community partner who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God, family and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is celebrating his 50th birthday with his family and friends, his good will has touched the lives of persons everywhere across the nation in particularly the Fourth District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Mr. Royal for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 20, 2011 as Mr. Tony Royal Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of November, 2011.

HONORING JOHNNY CHANDLER

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Johnny Chandler who served his country honorably in the United States Air Force.

After graduating from Chowchilla High School in 1998, Johnny Chandler enlisted in the United States Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and later completed Enlisted Aircrew Training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. After completing technical surveillance specialty training in Mississippi, Washington, and Oklahoma, he was assigned to the Airborne Air Control Squadron, one of the three operational E-3 Sentry (AWACS) squadrons in the continental United States. The primary mission of the 965th was Operation Southern Watch in the skies over Southern Iraq. The mission's objectives were to search for, track, and report enemy aircraft contacts to ground and airborne assets and intercept them if they ventured into the No-Fly Zone. While with the 965th, he participated in numerous Red Flag training missions, which are the Air Force's equivalent of the Navy's Top Gun School.

Johnny returned to the United States about a year later and was subsequently selected to be one of the first Airborne Surveillance Technicians to participate in the resurrection of the old 960th World War II bomber squad. While at the Base Exchange in Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey, Johnny watched the television monitors as the first airliner impacted the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011. While with the 960th, he completed two tours with the Operation Northern Watch in the Northern part of Iraq, guiding American and allied aircraft to targets and monitoring enemy air defenses and missile sites. He had over 1,000 flight hours on the E-3 Sentry including 300 combat hours. In 2003, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and was selected for cross-training in the Air Force Combat Control.

Johnny retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 and enrolled in Oklahoma State University's engineering program. He graduated in May 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. During his academic career, Johnny used his engineering expertise to design a multitude of robotic unmanned aerial and ground systems. He recently accepted a position as an Aerospace Engineer at the Naval Surface War Center where he will be working with high-powered lasers, rail guns, conventional weapons, and unmanned aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Johnny Chandler for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.